



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LANSING

MICHAEL R. DEVOS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 7, 2006

Dear Community Leader:

It gives me great pleasure to announce three new Downtown Improvement Initiatives that will financially assist communities with their downtown facade, signature building, and land assembly needs. These three Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs are being administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Community Assistance Team (CATEam). They have been designed to financially assist communities that have targeted key downtown properties in need of physical improvements to enhance the downtown's visual appeal/image and to promote the target area as a "community of choice" where residents should invest their time, energy, and money. They are intended to stimulate other private investment including building/housing renovations and job creation within Michigan's traditional downtown areas. The programs are as follows:

Facade Improvement Initiative: This program is designed to assist a community in making physical improvements to an entire traditional downtown area, block, or portion of a block that contains buildings, properties, and businesses in need of facade improvements.

Signature Building Initiative: This program is designed to assist a community in acquiring vacant or underused traditional downtown signature building(s) for rehabilitation purposes that must result in job creation.

Land Assembly Initiative: This program is designed to assist a community in acquiring and demolishing blighted properties to prevent additional deterioration within a traditional downtown and/or gateway.

Please refer to the enclosed community eligibility description and low/moderate income community list to determine if your community is an eligible applicant. All applicants must be local units of government. If, after reviewing the new programs, you determine that your community has an eligible project, complete the appropriate Notice of Intent documents. The submission deadline for the 2006 competition round is **no later than close of business on Friday, May 12, 2006**. Applicants must address **all items** on the NOI to be considered for funding.

One original and two copies of the completed Notice of Intent documents should be mailed to:

Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Attn: Community Assistance Team
735 East Michigan Avenue, Post Office Box 30044
Lansing, Michigan 48909

If you would like additional information or need assistance regarding the new programs, please contact the CATEam office at 517.241.1737 or your CATEam Specialist (see enclosed map). For convenience, all program materials are available online at <http://michigan.gov/mshda>; look for the home page link "2006 Downtown Improvement Initiatives". The CATEam is looking forward to working in partnership with your community to make these three new programs a success.

Sincerely,

Michael R. DeVos
Executive Director

Enclosures



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